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BONNER FLYING TO OTTAWA TO FIGHT CPR WITHDRAWAL

Intends Talks With John D.

Attorney-General Robert Bonner will fly to Ottawa this weekend to demand federal action to restore the Victoria-Vancouver boat service which is being abandoned, except for summer months, by the CPR after Feb. 25.

Premier Bennett made the announcement in the legislature yesterday minutes before MLAs passed a unanimous motion deploring the discontinuance of the service by the CPR and asking the federal governmen to ensure continuance of year-round ferry service "under the terms of union between British Columbia and Canada."

WITH RESOLUTION

Mr. Bonner will go to Ottawa armed with that resolution.

Last night he told the Colonist he will go right to the top. "I intend to see Prime Minister Diefenbaker," he said.

For the third day the CPR's abandonment of service was the topic of debate in the legislature and the CPR didn't have a friend in any party. Opposition and government members all thought along the same lines.

INTENTIONAL NEGLECT

John Tisdalle (SC, Saanich) accused the CPR of intentionally neglecting its ships and allowing them to become obsolete "so they could be forced into this situation at will."

"Companies as large as the CPR well recognize the need for advanced planning in keeping with the times," he said.

DECEIT CHARGED

He charged the CPR with "deceit" in negotiations for a freight rate increase because it cited losses in operations in the west to get the increase and when it got the increase abandoned the service.

Arthur Turner (CCF, Vancouver-East) charged the CPR is "woefully behind" the changing times. "Changes have taken place in transportation methods . . . freight is shipped on trucks and trailers . . . the CPR service in question doesn't fit into that change," he said.

SQUARE OFF

He said big companies like the CPR should square off their profitable operations against their unprofitable ones.

"Inaction" by Defence Minister George Pearkes and Victoria MP A. deB. McPhillips came under a barrage of criticism from MLAs.

"We must hear from the local MPs. They have lost their voices," Donald Smith (SC-Victoria) said.

NO STEPS TAKEN

"Mr. Pearkes and Mr. McPhillips have taken no steps to raise the matter in the House at Ottawa," Gordon Dowding (CCF-Burnaby) said.

"The federal MP for this constituency is busy promoting a bill to wrest the Fraser River from control of this province, rather than taking up this urgent matter of ferries," Public Works Minister W. N. Chant said.

Mr. Chant cited the big land grants given the CPR in every province. It separates its real estate from the transportation business, he said.

"We seem to be left out at the end of the line in Canada. The federal government couldn't do less than recognize its responsibility in this matter," Mr. Chant, who originally proposed the motion seeking government action, said.

Dan Campbell (SC, Comox) said the government was paying huge subsidies for transportation in the east and should consider subsidizing service here, not only on the Victoria-Vancouver run, but also to the north and west of the Island.

Mr. Dowding said the attorney-general should remind the federal government it has a national ship service on this coast in the Canadian National Steamships, now in idleness. He said he hoped the provincial government would act if the federal government did not do something.

Ike Urges:

Pray For Dulles

WASHINGTON (UPI) —Secretary of State John Foster Dulles went to the hospital yesterday for another serious operation. President Eisenhower gave him a glowing send-off and urged Americans to "pray for his early recovery."

Dulles, 70, entered Walter Reed Army Medical Centre to prepare for his second major operation in less than two years. Doctors said the surgery, for a hernia, would be performed late this week or early next week.

SEVERAL WEEKS

The secretary, just back from a flying trip to consult with European officials, was expected to be out of action for several weeks. Dulles' top deputies will run the state department in his absence.

The president opened his news conference with a tribute to Dulles.

MOST VALUABLE

"Because of the fact that I believe he is the most valuable man in foreign affairs that I have ever known, I believe that every clear-thinking . . . man and woman in the United States would pray for his early recovery . . ." Eisenhower said.

The president said "America needs him and I think each one of us needs him."

NO HOLD-UP

The president told reporters he did not think Dulles' operation would hold up preparations for any Big Four foreign ministers' conference on the Berlin crisis. He said such a conference, or a summit meeting of the kind sought by Soviet leaders, would take a lot of preparation and the delay would give Dulles time to recover.

But congressional sources reported that the president is gravely concerned over the possibility that Dulles may not be able to resume his duties because of illness.

McCLOY MENTIONED

The name of John J. McCloy, former U.S. high commissioner to Germany, is mentioned most frequently.

In Europe news of the temporary retirement of the state secretary raised fears that western moves in the Berlin crisis might be stalled.

The announcement hit Europe with bombshell impact. It also won almost unprecedented praise for Dulles, long the target of barbs, especially in the British press. Even critics of U.S. policy and of Dulles praised Dulles' devotion to his work.

Giant Twister Saws Off Building Wall

Rooms in an apartment building were left exposed after rear wall was ripped out as though by giant saw when a tornado smashed without warning through a crowded Negro tenement section in the near west-side district of St. Louis early yesterday. The furious storm left a trail of death, injury and destruction in a 30-by-seven-block area.—(AP Photofax.)

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At Least 22 Dead, 350 Hurt

Slum Ruins Probed For Tornado Victims

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (UPI)—A tornado smashed without warning through a teeming Negro tenement area in the heart of St. Louis yesterday, killing at least 22 persons and injuring more than 350.

The bodies of 22 victims, all but one of them identified, were pried from the rubble of smashed rooming houses and brought to the city morgue. Eighteen of the dead were Negroes and eight were children.

The victims included a mother, Mrs. Mildred Campbell, 29, and her five children, ranging in age from 8 to 1. They were residents of a three-storey rooming house in which 17 persons were trapped in a mass of brick and wood.

HOSPITALS JAMMED

The city's hospitals were jammed with more than 320 tornado injured, many in serious condition. Hundreds more were treated and released.

An American Red Cross survey showed massive destruction in a 210-square block area 42 blocks west of the Mississippi River.

Twenty-one multiple dwellings and 20 business places were destroyed, the Red Cross said. In addition, 1,245 multiple dwellings and 423 businesses suffered major or minor damage, along with 13 single residences.

Meanwhile, police, firemen, the entire St. Louis civil defence corps, and 100 National Guardsmen armed with rifles and bayonets searched the ruins of scores of caved-in buildings looking for more dead.

"God knows how many people are trapped in those buildings," deputy fire chief James Sauerwine said.

Hundreds were homeless and being cared for at Red Cross feeding stations. They gathered with relatives of the missing to watch the rescue operation. A strange kind of shocked stillness hung over the shattered neighborhood.

SAW IT COME

Mrs. E. P. Warton of suburban Webster Groves watched disaster move into the city.

"I was just numb for seconds," she said. "Finally, I shrieked and broke the spell."

The twister crashed its might against the city's southwest side, tearing at the St. Louis arena and sweeping away two towering television station antennas.

Then it jumped back into the skies and returned in a short time to carve a path of death and destruction through one of St. Louis' most thinly-populated areas.

OPPOSITION LEADER LESTER PEARSON
'. . . permission needed?'

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER SMITH
'. . . I don't know'

★ ★ ★

DEW Query Embarrassing

OTTAWA (UPI) — Cabinet ministers sat in apparently embarrassed silence in Parliament Tuesday when Opposition Leader Lester Pearson asked whether it still is necessary for Canadians to get American permission to visit their own northern defences.

Pearson's question followed a government report Monday that U.S. authorities held up a planned visit by a mines department official to a DEW line radar base for eight months. The DEW line bases were manned by U.S. personnel until Feb. 1.

Delays in getting U.S. permission for Canadians to go to the radar stations at one time even affected Defence Minister George Pearkes, who had to get American approval to make such a trip.

Pearson asked whether it still is necessary for Canadians to get permission now that the RCAF mans the bases. But he neglected the formality of addressing his question to a specific minister, and cabinet members exchanged worried glances.

Finally, External Affairs Minister Sidney Smith got up and said he didn't know. He promised to look into it.

Mardi Gras Becomes Riot

CARACAS, Venezuela (UPI) —Mardi Gras merrymaking suddenly gave way to rioting and looting attempts in downtown Caracas yesterday. Sixty-four persons were injured and 470 others were arrested before gunfire and tear gas dispersed 3,000 rioters.

47 Seamen, Two Ships Feared Lost

HALIFAX (CP)—Two fishing trawlers with 47 men were missing of the east coast Tuesday and it was feared all aboard may have perished.

The 657-ton Juli, an Icelandic ship, had not been heard from since her captain reported her in danger from high seas and severe icing Saturday. She carried a crew of 31.

The Blue Wave, a 289-ton Newfoundland vessel, disappeared Monday with 16 men after sending a distress message saying she was in danger of capsizing.

IWA Delegate Urges Trade

VANCOUVER (CP)—George McKnight of Port Alberni, a B.C. delegate to the International Woodworkers of America convention here, called Tuesday for a trade union delegation to China and other far eastern countries to explore the possibilities of expanding trade to help relieve Canadian unemployment.

Agreed

Cyprus Problem Solved?

ZURICH, Switzerland (UPI) —Greece and Turkey signed in principle last night a plan for the establishment of an independent Cyprus Republic.

The two Cyprus rivals agreed on a plan that would give the strife-torn Mediterranean island complete independence, to be secured by joint guarantees of Greece, Turkey and Britain.

Agreement came after a crucial meeting of the Greek and Turkish premiers, who ironed out major obstacles. They scheduled a meeting today to thrash out remaining minor problems.

Barring a last-minute hitch, the Cyprus problem which has taken a huge toll in lives was considered settled.

Birds Die, Tenants Flee In Bad Pet Shop Fire

VANCOUVER (CP)—A three-alarm fire killed the stock of a pet shop and chased tenants from an old business and rooming house block in the 300-block Cambie, Tuesday night.

"Bootlegger Joe," the talking $600 mynah bird who whistled at passing girls, was among the "several hundred" trapped in the pet store.

One woman was taken to hospital and another was carried to safety after smoke billowed through rooms which occupy the upper part of the three-storey building.

Firemen in airpacks and masks made a door-to-door check of the building.

The fire apparently started in a Bible shop in the basement of the building. Flames shot up through the floor into the pet shop above.

"Bootlegger Joe" was the prize bird among 800 to 1,000 owned by Jack Chandler. It would whistle at passers-by and call out "What's your name?" If there was no answer, the bird would call out, "Buy me a bottle."

Vancouver-Bound? It'll Cost You More

It will cost more money to go to Vancouver by ferry after Feb. 25 when Canadian Pacific Steamships discontinues service between Victoria and the mainland.

A round trip ticket with bus connections to Nanaimo costs $8.55. A round trip from Victoria now costs only $6.75.